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# The Basket maker and the Magic Fish



Fantastic children stories  
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Written by: Maulana Ahmed Ali - Illustrations by: Shiraz Zaman

# **The Basketmaker and the Magic Fish**

**Written by Maulana Ahmed Ali**

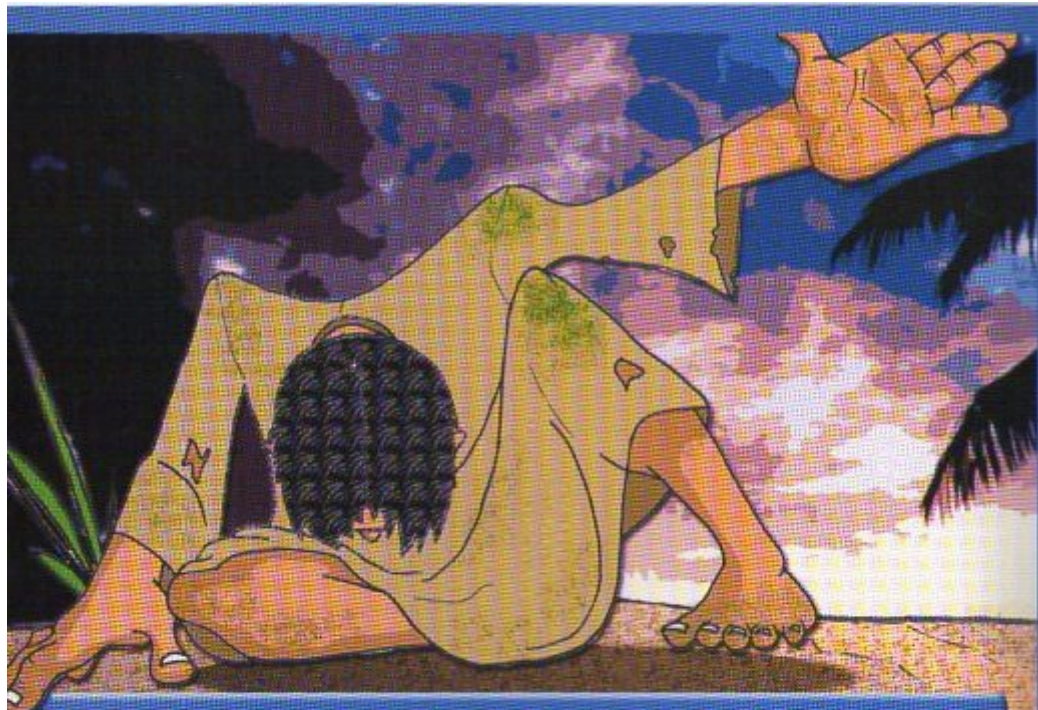




Once upon a time, long long ago, in the tribe of Bani Israeel, there lived a very hardworking, pious man.

This man made baskets from leaves to earn a living. Every day he would make one basket and then sell it in the market for 6 Daniks. With 4 Daniks the pious man would buy food for his wife and children, and with the remaining 2 Daniks he would buy palm tree leaves to make another basket.





One day, as usual, the pious man made his basket and sold it in the market for 6 Daniks. He then went to buy food for his family. On the way he passed a beggar, who was crying out;

"Please help me! Please help me! I am hungry, thirsty and cold. Please will someone lend me some money?"

Seeing the poor beggar and hearing his cries, the pious man felt very sorry for him. He thought about his hungry wife and children at home. They would all be waiting anxiously for their food. But then he thought of the beggar again and said to himself, "My family and I can survive without food for one night I will give my money to this beggar." Saying this, he gave all the money he had earned that day from selling his basket to the hungry beggar.

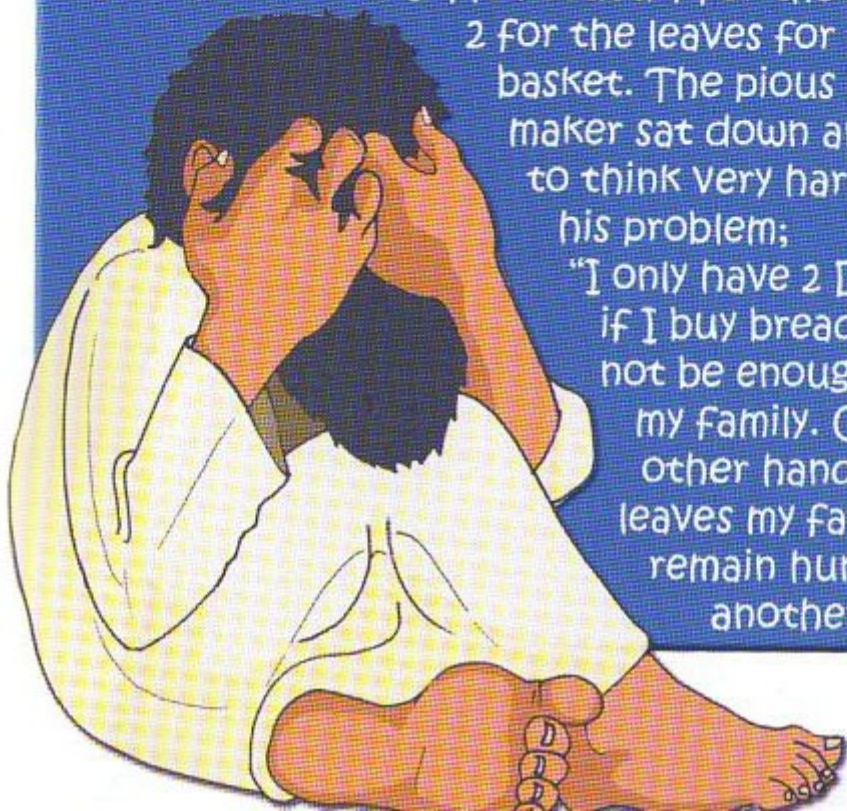


The basket maker returned home that evening empty handed. His family asked him, "Where is our food?"

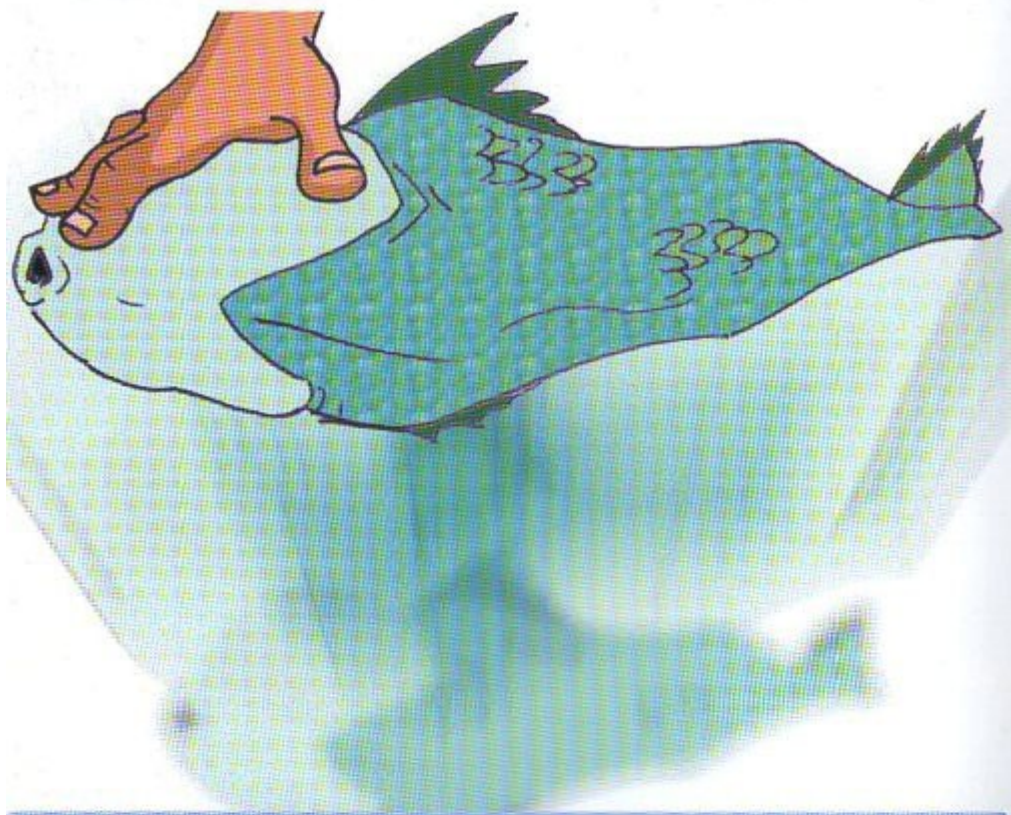
"I lent the money I earned today to a needy man so I was unable to buy any," he explained. "But you mustn't worry your meal will come to you soon," he assured them. He then left his family and began gathering together all the leaves he could find that had been left over from previous baskets. He managed to find enough to make a small basket. The next day the basket maker sold this small basket in the market for 2 Daniks. Now he had a very big problem. He only had 2 Daniks where he needed 6. He needed 4 for the food and

2 for the leaves for the next basket. The pious basket maker sat down and began to think very hard over his problem;

"I only have 2 Daniks, if I buy bread it will not be enough for my family. On the other hand if I buy leaves my family will remain hungry for another night".



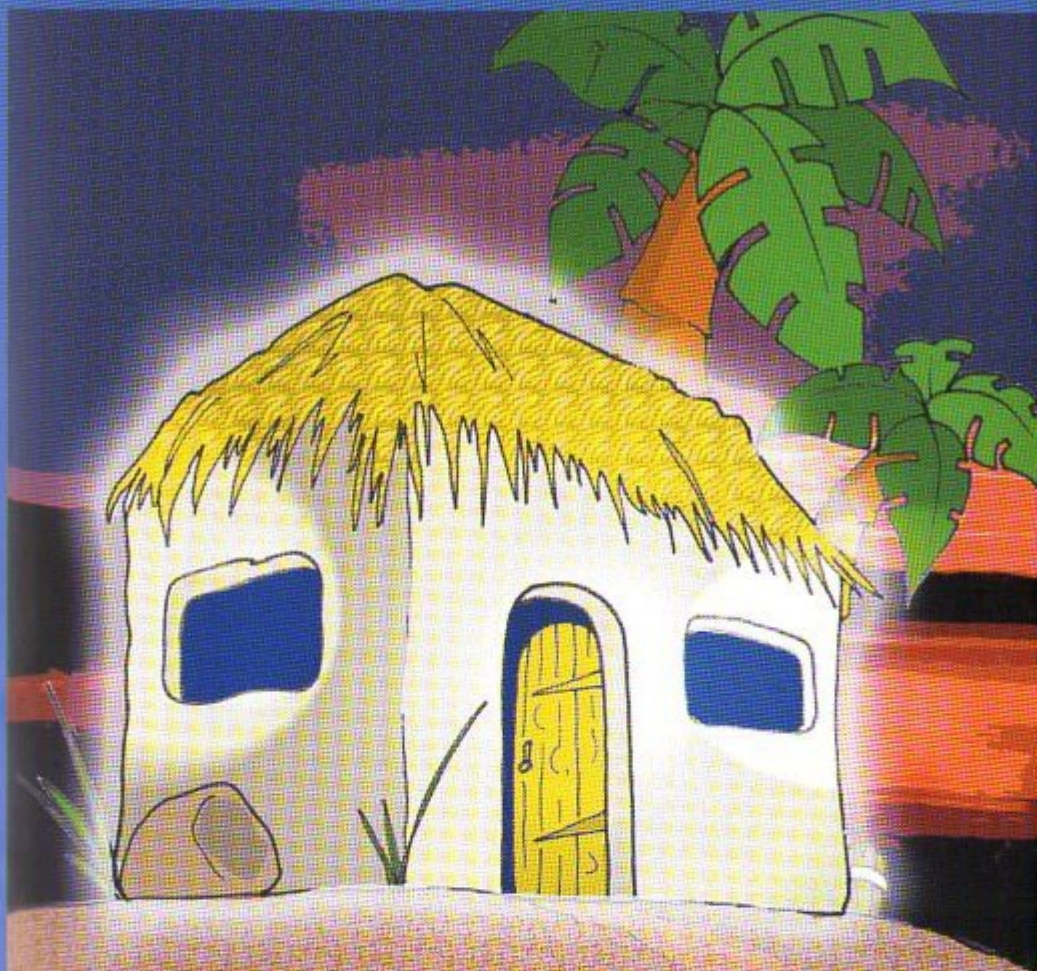




The basket maker thought and thought and thought, what would solve his problem? Whilst he was sat thinking a fisherman came by selling fish. Remembering the faces of his hungry wife and children crying for something to eat, the basket maker bought the fish for them with his 2 Daniks. He took the fish home to his wife so she could cook it and she was very pleased. Now she would be able to feed their hungry children for the night.

In the meantime the pious man was praying to Allah that He may solve his problem. The rest of the family also prayed that night that Allah would make their lives easier the following day.





Preparing the meal, the mother cut open the fish. To her surprise inside the fish she found a large egg like pearl.

The pearl was such a beautiful jewel that it lit up the whole house.

Overjoyed at what she had found in the stomach of the fish she went running to her husband.

With the pearl in her hand she cried out, "Look how quickly Allah has rewarded you for the money you gave away to the poor beggar!"

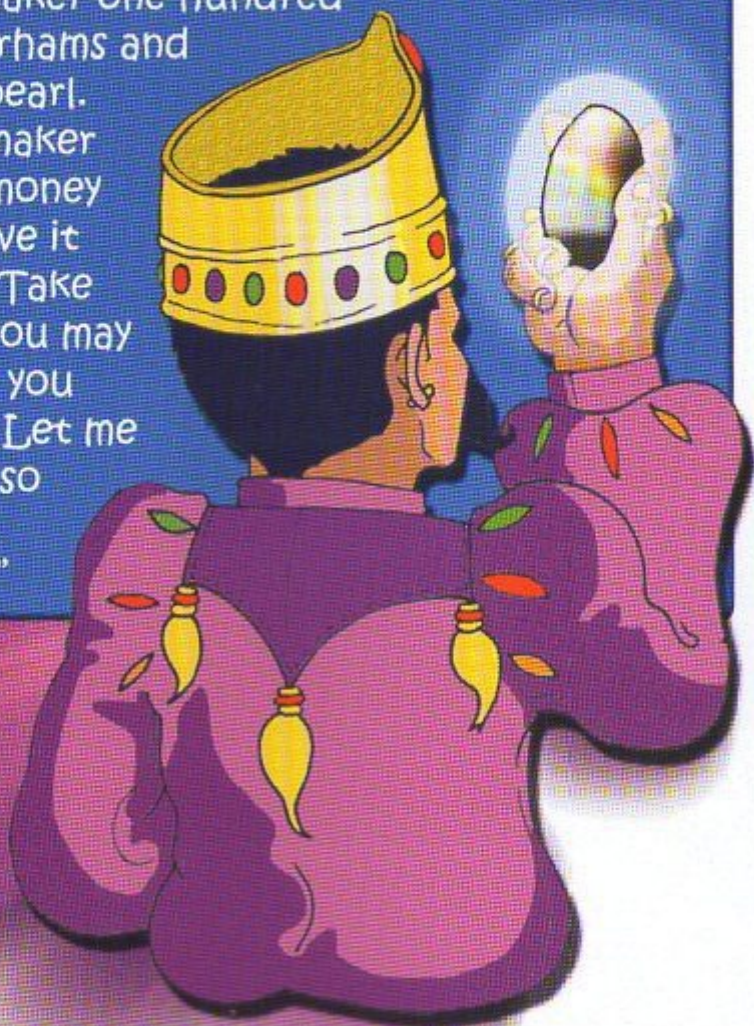


Upon seeing the jewel the basket maker thanked Allah immediately and took it to the King to sell. The basket maker had no idea how much this pearl would be worth. The King summoned his jewellers so that they may place a value on this precious gem.

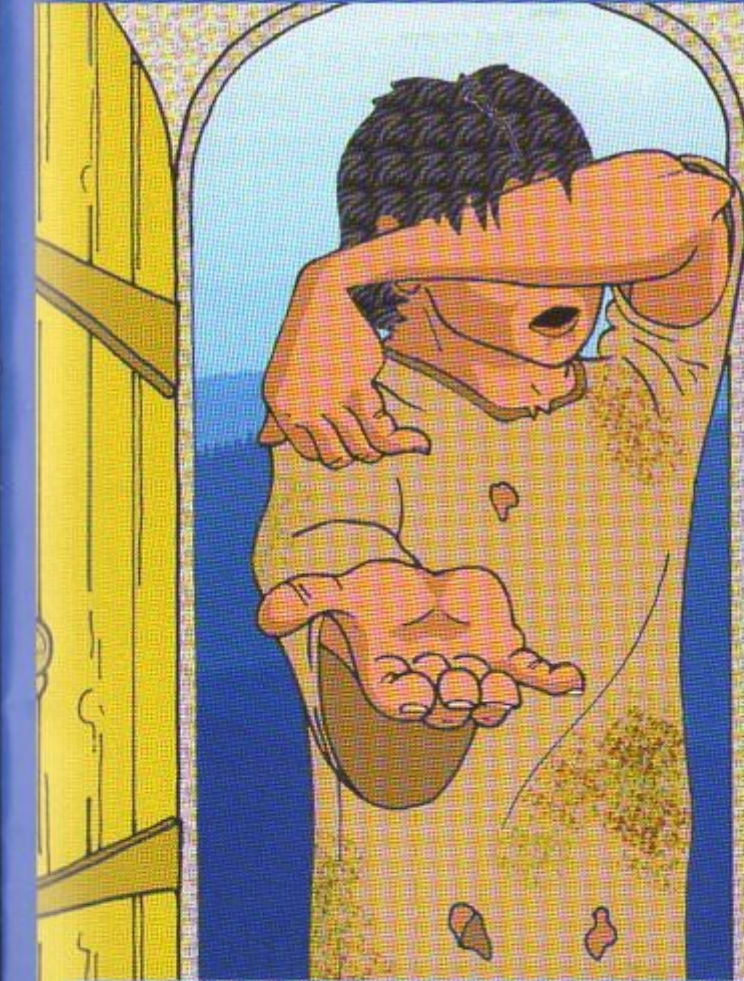
“One hundred thousand Dirhams!”

The jewellers informed the King. The King gave the basket maker one hundred thousand Dirhams and bought the pearl.

The basket maker carried the money home and gave it to his wife. “Take this money, you may do whatever you wish with it. Let me go and pray so that I may thank Allah.”







Later on that day the same beggar came knocking on the basket maker's door. "Help me, give me something of that which Allah has given you," he cried. The basket maker without hesitating replied, "Come inside and take it all."

The beggar could not believe what he was hearing. He had never seen such a kind, warm-hearted and generous person. In this state of shock the beggar asked, "Are you joking with me?"

"No," replied the basket maker. "You may take it all."

"But I will not be able to carry it all!" Exclaimed the beggar. "Then I will help you carry it," replied the basket maker. Saying this he helped the beggar carry all the money outside.





As the beggar left the house he turned to the basket maker and said, "I am not really a beggar but an Angel from the seventh heaven. Allah sent me so that He could test you with regards to the money He had given you. Congratulations! You have passed the test. Allah has found you to be a grateful servant. Allah was very pleased with you and accepted the Dirham that you gave me, for this action your reward is much greater.

Your reward has been divided into 12 parts. The one hundred thousand Dirhams you gave me is just one part. Allah has 11 parts of your reward waiting for you in Jannah.

You may take all this money back inside Allah has blessed your money and you may keep it forever."



# The Message

We learn a very important lesson from the pious man in this story. Whenever he was in need of anything he turned to and asked from Allah. He was not a rich man but he was kind hearted and feared Allah that is why he gave what little he had to someone he thought needed it more than him.

When he was rewarded by Allah he did not become greedy and when Allah tested him, he passed the test by giving all his wealth away. He did all of this because he had faith (Imaan), that Allah provides everything. He gives when He wishes and likewise He can take away when He wishes.

In the story we learn that although the pious man did not earn much money, only 1 Dirham, he gave it away for the sake of Allah. He always remained grateful to Allah. Due to this gratefulness Allah rewarded him very heavily. One hundred thousand Dirhams in this world and much more in the Hereafter.



# The Message

This is the Rule of Allah. We are taught in the Holy Quraan: Whoever is grateful to Allah, Allah gives him many times more.

We should also thank Allah for all that He has given us and in doing so we also shall receive much more.

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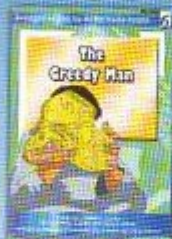
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**Written by: Maulana Ahmed Ali**  
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